THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development of places including places of historical interest, which are important from the point of view of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories every year for tourism related projects at various places of tourist interest identified in consultation with them.

(c) 21 travel circuits, 12 destinations and 5 Special Tourism Areas covering important places including the places of historical importance have been identified for development in consultation with respective State Governments/Union Territories. During the first three years of Ninth Plan i.e. 1997-2000, the Department of Tourism has sanctioned 1018 projects.

(d) Does not arise.

Restoration of monuments in Gujarat

667. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent earthquake that devastated Gujarat has also damaged a large number of ancient monuments of archaeological importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken proposed to be taken for repairs and restoration of the monuments?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Fifty monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India in Gujarat have suffered damages of varying magnitude in the recent earthquake of 26th January, 2001. The rough assessment of the damage is over Rs. 2 crores.

(c) The monuments affected by the earthquake have been inspected by senior officers of the Archaeological Survey of India. Measures have been initiated to stabilise the structurally sensitive

portions of the affected monuments and to salvage the architectural members besides initiating minor repairs for which an allocation of Rs. 10 lakhs has been made.

The restoration of the affected monuments shall be taken up in a phased manner spread over a period of about two years or more.

Growth of Tourism Industry

668. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's market share of world tourism is less than half per cent, despite the fact that from 1960 to 2000 international tourism rose from 70 million to 700 million;

(b) whether India earns Rs. 14,000 crores in foreign exchange and generates a large amount of employment in the tourism business in a wide range of resources and industry;

(c) whether in spite of repeated approvals, Government are reluctant to take bold steps like creation of suitable infrastructure etc; and

(d) if so, the steps are being taken in the new Tourism Policy, which will provide significant growth to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The percentage share of tourist arrivals in India in the year 1999 was 0.37 in the total international tourists movement of 664 million all over the world.

(b) The estimated foreign exchange earnings from tourism in the year 2000 is Rs. 14,475 crores. The direct employment generated through tourism during the year 1999-2000 is estimated to be about 15.5 million.

(c) and (d) The development of tourism including creation of infrastructure is mainly undertaken by the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. However, the Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for the development of